

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ROBERT SHAFER

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the Twenty-Fourth District of Texas, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Robert Shafer, Second Lieutenant, United States Army, of Dallas, Texas, for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Shafer enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served until 1950 as an engineering and construction officer. Shafer was deployed to New Guinea, the Ryuku Islands, and Okinawa during World War II, helping build infrastructure and airfields in support of the war effort. Shafer and his men were routinely subject to Japanese bombing runs and sniper fire. He later served during the Korean War as an operations officer and platoon training officer. His decorations include the World War II Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the American Theater Medal.

After leaving the Army, Mr. Shafer has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. Shafer worked as a Boy Scouts of America leader, a leader within his church, and has helped organize and assist with his church's food pantry.

Mr. Shafer's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Army and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF DR. EPHRAIM WILLIAMS'S RETIREMENT

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Ephraim Williams on his retirement as the Senior Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church. Dr. Williams has served as Senior Pastor for 49 years and his congregation is eternally grateful.

Dr. Ephraim Williams was born in Summit, Mississippi. He pursued his education in Mississippi, Illinois, and California. He was called to ministry in 1964 and was ordained in 1966 by his Pastor and mentor, Pastor Joseph Williams. After, he enrolled in seminary and trained at several pristine institutions. He received his Doctor of Divinity from Conroe Normal and Industrial College in 1979 and an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from California State University, Sacramento in 2017.

Dr. Williams leads one of the largest congregations in Sacramento and has been in-

strumental in the church's growth in members, in programs and in facilities. His leadership and impact are not limited to the church, but also are to be found in the greater community. He has provided pivotal leadership in revitalizing Oak Park, establishing supportive programs, and feeding hundreds of people each year. Additionally, Dr. Williams has served on the boards of numerous programs dedicated to the wellbeing of Sacramento residents and has been a leader with various religious organizations.

All of Dr. Williams efforts have not gone unnoticed. He has received numerous awards and accolades from national and local leaders. He has been invited to the White House by two former presidents, President William Clinton and President Barack Obama.

Dr. Williams' wife of 55 years, Carrie Sue Martin-Williams, passed on May 6, 2009. They are the parents of two children, Gwen and Ephraim "Butch," Jr.; four grandchildren, Nikiya, Tairena, Tenaya (deceased) and Marshall; and ten great-grandchildren.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the legacy of we Dr. Williams for his service on behalf of his congregation and the Sacramento region.

ORIGINAL TUSKEGEE AIRMAN, AIR FORCE BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE

HON. ANTHONY G. BROWN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. BROWN of Maryland. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay final tribute to retired Air Force Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, who died peacefully in his sleep January 16, 2022 at his Bethesda, Maryland home at the age of 102 years old.

McGee was born in Cleveland, Ohio on December 7, 1919. He was among eight remaining Tuskegee Airmen combat pilots out of the 355 that were assigned to the 332nd Fighter Group during WWII in Europe. In addition, he flew combat missions in Korea and Vietnam accumulating a total of 6,308 flying hours and 409 fighter combat missions during his 30-year active-duty military career.

He enlisted in the U.S. Army October 26, 1942, while studying engineering at the University of Illinois, and earned his pilot's wings June 30, 1943. By February 1944, he was stationed in Italy with the 302nd Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group, flying his first mission on February 14. He flew the Bell P-39Q Airacobra, Republic P-47D Thunderbolt and the North American P-51 Mustang fighter aircraft, escorting Consolidated B-24 Liberator and Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress bombers over Germany, Austria, and the Balkans.

During missions, he also engaged in low level attacks over enemy airfields and rail yards. On August 24, 1944, McGee, while escorting B-17s over Czechoslovakia, engaged

a formation of Luftwaffe fighters and shot down a Focke Wulf 190. McGee flew a total of 137 combat missions. He was promoted to Captain and returned to the United States on December 1, 1944. He became an instructor pilot on the North American B-25 Mitchell bombers at Tuskegee Army Air Field that another unit of the Tuskegee Airmen was readying to deploy to the Pacific Theater. He remained there until 1946, when the base was closed.

After World War II, McGee was sent to Lockbourne Air Field, Columbus, Ohio, to become the base operation and training officer. Later in 1948, he was posted to an Aircraft Maintenance Technical Course and was assigned to an air refueling unit. When the Korean War broke out, he flew North American P-51 Mustangs, later redesignated by the Air Force as F-51s, again in the 67th Fighter Bomber Squadron, completing 100 missions, and being promoted to Major. McGee continued to serve with the United States Air Force as it was reconstituted as a fighter pilot, flying the Lockheed F-80 Shooting Star and the Northrop F-89 Scorpion aircraft.

During the Vietnam War, as a Lieutenant Colonel, McGee flew 172 combat missions in a McDonnell RF-4 photo reconnaissance aircraft. His plane was hit by enemy fire twice—during the Korean conflict and again years later near Laos, both times on his right wing. After a series of other assignments, both in the United States as well as in Italy and Germany, and promotion to colonel, McGee retired on January 31, 1973. He ended his military career with 6,308 flying hours.

McGee was recognized for his combat and military service with a number of awards including: Distinguished Flying Cross with two Oak Leaf Clusters, Legion of Merit with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Star, Air Medal with 25 Oak Leaf Clusters, Army Commendation Medal, Presidential Unit Citation, Korean Presidential Unit Citation, Hellenic Republic World War II Commemorative Medal, along with related campaign and service ribbons.

After his military service, McGee held many prestigious functional and honorary positions in the field of aviation. In 1978, at the age of 58, he completed the college degree at Columbia College in Kansas City, over thirty years after his initial enrollment at the University of Illinois. Though interrupted by World War II, attaining a college degree had been a lifelong goal. McGee served as the Director of the Kansas City airport and as a member of the Aviation Advisory Commission.

For over 30 years, he was an ambassador of the Tuskegee Airmen Incorporated (TAI), a nonprofit, giving numerous public addresses. He received numerous accolades, including the National Aeronautical Association's "Elder Statesman of Aviation." McGee served two terms as National President of Tuskegee Airmen, Incorporated.

In 2011, he was inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame in Dayton, Ohio. The National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 approved the honorary promotion

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

of documented original Tuskegee Airman, United States Air Force Colonel (Retired) Charles E. McGee, to Brigadier General.

McGee was a torchbearer, consistently emphasizing the significance and lasting legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen on the U.S. military and American society. It was the Tuskegee Airmen he said that “right the wrong those that believed Blacks were not able to master sophisticated equipment, that Blacks lacked courage, and that Blacks did not have the wherewithal to fight a determined enemy. It was the Tuskegee Airmen that ended up with a stellar WWII aviation war record and thereby edged the military toward integration and America away from segregation.”

Brigadier General McGee and his late wife, the former Frances E. Nelson of Champaign, Illinois, raised three children, became grandparents of ten and great grandparents of many more. He will be greatly missed; however, his legacy will live on as a source of inspiration for generations to come. I wish retired Air Force Brigadier General Charles E. McGee ‘high flight.’

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for Rollcall vote Nos. 18 through 27.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Rollcall No. 18; NAY on Rollcall No. 19; YEA on Roll Call No. 20; NAY on Roll Call No. 21; NAY on Roll Call No. 22; YEA on Roll Call No. 23; NAY on Roll Call No. 24; NAY on Roll Call No. 25; YEA on Roll Call No. 26; and YEA on Roll Call No. 27.

HONORING KYLA CLAUSSEN AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Kyla Claussen, disability rights advocate and caregiver, as Iowan of the Week.

Kyla is a tireless advocate and clear voice not just for herself, but for the thousands of Iowans who find themselves waiting for assistance through a Medicaid HCBS waiver. Although Kyla lives with an unknown progressive neuromuscular disease that has impacted her lung capacity, mobility, and speech, that has not sapped an ounce of her compassion and dedication.

Kyla is one of over 17,000 Iowans waiting for a waiver to receive home and community-based care through Medicaid. She brings a unique perspective to an all-too-common problem for Iowans living with a disability. Before requiring assistance herself, Kyla had in fact been a caregiver for over a decade. While Kyla is no longer able to work as a caregiver, I know this hasn't taken away her compassion and drive to make sure everyone—no matter who—can live in their home, their community,

and achieve their fullest. Her unending commitment to others and service to her community, whether as a caregiver or fighter for disability rights, embody the values that make me proud to be an Iowan.

You can find evidence of Kyla's commitment wherever you look. If you ask her friends and fellow advocates at Iowa Upgrade Medicaid, she's been called “the researcher” for her ability to dig into and digest disability laws in Iowa and around the Midwest. And just this past fall, Kyla was able to use her story to call attention to the need for better home and community-based services as part of a roundtable discussion with the White House. I am incredibly proud to see Iowa so well-represented in Kyla, and I am glad that more folks had a chance to hear her story.

But Kyla's story doesn't stop there. Kyla lives in Avoca, Iowa with the kittens she's fostering—she has four right now, but it's been more in the past—and her service dog in training, Ed. Whenever Ed notices that Kyla's breathing has flagged, he's trained to start barking. Then, according to Kyla, her mission becomes getting him to stop. That's a good boy.

I know that our laws have failed in protecting and providing for our disability community. I have heard so many personal stories of how our existing programs are woefully inadequate, unable to address the most basic needs for those who are not able-bodied. Gaps in our local, state, and federal system have mired the disability community with red tape and bureaucracy to receive the most basic level of assistance. The issues facing our friends, family, and neighbors with a disability are profound, and the current systems are antiquated. I am proud to have supported legislation to address these problems, however much of this legislation remains stalled. I will not stop supporting and advocating to ensure we treat those with a disability with respect, humanity, and kindness.

I am humbled by Kyla's ability to use her diagnosis as a springboard for change and her genuine concern for her friends, community, and fellow Iowans always shines through. I am grateful to be able to share her story here in Washington, and I am privileged to be able to celebrate her as Iowan of the Week.

HONORING ALABAMA'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of our local law enforcement.

Across our country, police officers are under fire. They are being killed, attacked and targeted.

These brave men and women who serve their local communities help keep us safe, but the liberals continue to push to defund the police.

I am sick of it.

President Biden and the left's anti-police policies have led to a crimewave across our nation. Last October, three Alabama police officers were shot in less than 24 hours. Last May, Alabama officers were injured in a shoot-

ing. And last week, an Opelika Police officer was hit by a fleeing suspect.

We are a country of law and order and I implore my colleagues to stand up for those who protect us and back the blue.

THOMAS TERRELL

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the Texas-Twenty-Fourth Congressional District, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Thomas Terrell, Captain, United States Marine Corps, of Southlake, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. Terrell was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1961 and served until 1967. Terrell served several tours in Vietnam, to include at Chu Lai, Dong Ha, Phu Bai, and Quang. At Dong Ha Combat Base in 1967, Terrell and his fellow Marines came under an intense enemy artillery attack, during which Terrell moved three wounded Marines to safety and maneuvered under enemy fire to assess and check upon the welfare of his Marines during the attack. Terrell was awarded the Bronze Star with “V” device denoting valorous actions as well as the Purple Heart.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Mr. Terrell has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. Mr. Terrell holds several ministerial roles in local churches, taught for several years at the Happy Hill Christian Academy, and is a member of the Texas Real Estate Commission's Broker-Lawyer Committee.

Mr. Terrell's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Marine Corps and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE: TAMMY MEMBREÑO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BARRIO ACTION YOUTH & FAMILY CENTER

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. GOMEZ. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Ms. Tammy Membreño on the occasion of her 30 years of service as Executive Director of Barrio Action Youth & Family Center.

As an immigrant from El Salvador, Tammy Membreño, has devoted her life to improving the quality of life for youth and their families because she understands the impact of limited economic resources and education on low-income families. During her college years, she began volunteering at Barrio Action and in 1991 she embraced the opportunity to become their Executive Director.

Barrio Action was established to empower young people to succeed both academically

and socially, working with people of all ages, with a special emphasis on helping high-risk and at-risk youth, young adults and their families.

Today, because of Tammy Membreno's persistence and advocacy, the organization has grown from three staff members to one with over twenty-three employees and multiple programs serving over 20,000 children and families in Northeast Los Angeles.

Thanks to Tammy Membreno's vision, Barrio Action has a permanent home in the community of El Sereno. Barrio Action is the only youth and family center in El Sereno, a community of over 54,000 residents.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and celebrating Tammy Membreno.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MEL
MERMELSTEIN

HON. ALAN S. LOWENTHAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reflect on and honor the life of Mel Mermelstein, a survivor of Auschwitz and Buchenwald, later a U.S. immigrant who served our country in the Korean War, a pioneering voice in the legal fight against Holocaust denialism, and a proud champion and teacher of Holocaust education and remembrance.

Mermelstein died January 28, 2022, at his home in Long Beach, California. He was 95. Mermelstein was born in Mukachevo, Czechoslovakia on September 25, 1926. His hometown was later occupied by the Hungarians and is currently part of the Ukraine. Mermelstein was 17 years old in 1944 when the Nazis rounded him up along with other Jews who had been stripped of their homes, denied education and were relegated to ghettos. They were transported by cattle car to the infamous Nazi camp, Auschwitz, in German-occupied Poland.

Mermelstein later recounted in numerous interviews, that upon arrival, his mother who was helping a woman with three or four small children, was immediately ushered to the gas chamber line. His two sisters who had been selected for slave labor, ran to be at their mother's side. They all perished that day in the Nazi death factory. Thereafter, his father and brother were also senselessly murdered by the Nazis, leaving Mel the sole survivor of his immediate family.

During his internment at Auschwitz, Mermelstein was forced by the Nazis to work as slave labor. In January 1945, as Soviet Troops advanced, the Nazis began mass executions and evacuations of prisoners from Auschwitz. Mermelstein was forced to march on foot for three weeks in the bitter snow in what has come to be known as the death marches. After surviving the 155-mile forced march to Gross-Rosen concentration camp, he was packed onto a train and sent to Buchenwald, another Nazi concentration camp.

On April 11, 1945, U.S. forces liberated Mermelstein and the other surviving Jews from Buchenwald. Upon liberation, Mermelstein was 18 years old and weighed 68 pounds. He remained in the camp while the Red Cross offered medical care and aid. After approxi-

mately three months, he returned to Mukachevo. With his entire family murdered and his family home occupied, Mermelstein made a decision to begin a new life in the country that had liberated him from hell.

Mermelstein knew he had an uncle and aunt in New York. Although he did not speak English at the time, Mermelstein immigrated to the U.S. through Ellis Island in 1946, where he eventually became a naturalized citizen. In 1950, Mermelstein was drafted into the U.S. Army. Although he was given the ability to forgo service, he proudly served in the American armed forces. After his initial training, and because of his extensive linguistic abilities including seven languages, he was selected to work Army intelligence during the Korean War. He later worked as a translator at the United Nations.

After his service to this country, Mermelstein began to pen his experiences in the Nazi camps in his memoir, "By Bread Alone." In 1960, Mermelstein met his wife, Emma Jane Nance, then a schoolteacher in New York. The couple moved to Los Angeles in 1961 to start their family. Mermelstein set-up and ran a successful manufacturing company that made wooden pallets. He went on to employ generations of workers, including his yard manager that Mermelstein employed for 55 years.

While running a successful business, Mermelstein, deeply scarred and traumatized by his experiences in the Nazi death camps, began traveling back to Auschwitz and other surrounding concentration camps. In 1967, with the advent of the Six-Day War, the conflict between Israel and seven Arab states, Mermelstein was compelled to make sure evidence of what happened to his family and to the millions of other Jews at the hands of the Nazis was not buried or destroyed.

Hearing the rising number of threats being made against Jews and committed to the promise he made to his father, Mermelstein life's work became to ensure that the world would never forget. He spoke to classrooms and school assemblies educating students and teachers of the atrocities he experienced as a teen, warning against man's inhumanity to man. He accompanied students to Auschwitz and spread a message of hope, peace, resilience and reconciliation. His focus was on intellectual curiosity and what can be learned from such a dark period in history. He lives on as an inspiration to many.

In the late 70's Mermelstein actively debated Holocaust deniers on the radio and television. In 1980, a Holocaust denier organization claimed the planned extermination of Jews by the Nazis was a myth and offered a reward publicizing it in Jewish newspapers. Mermelstein was incensed and wrote a letter to the editors of various newspapers who published the advertisement expressing his disgust. The Holocaust denier organization turned its focus to Mermelstein and challenged Mermelstein to prove that Jews were gassed in gas chambers at Auschwitz. The Institute for Historical Review, a known hate group "offered a \$50,000 award to prove Jews were gassed at Auschwitz," recounted William Cox, a Long Beach attorney. Cox was so moved after reading Mermelstein's memoir, "By Bread Alone," he offered to represent Mermelstein to take on the so-called revisionists pro bono.

In 1981, in the Mermelstein v. IHR case, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Thomas T.

Johnson took judicial notice of the fact that Jews were gassed in gas chambers at Auschwitz. The ruling was a "personal vindication" for Mermelstein, his attorney Cox recounted. In 1985, the IHR and Mermelstein reached a settlement agreement, and Mermelstein received a damage award and a letter of apology from the organization. This became the subject of the movie "Never Forget," starring Leonard Nimoy.

Over five decades, Mermelstein returned to Auschwitz and surrounding death camps obtaining artifacts and other items. Mermelstein processed his trauma and pain creating pieces for display in an exhibit which was formerly housed on his business property. Tens of thousands of students toured his exhibit for free over the decades. Currently, Mermelstein's extensive collection of artifacts is being curated for permanent display. Among the physical reminders of the Holocaust he collected are uniforms worn by inmates, pieces of barbed-wire fence and even parts of a Jewish prayer book found buried near an incinerator.

In a collaboration between the Auschwitz Study Foundation (a non-profit founded by Mermelstein in 1978) and the Chabad Jewish Center in Newport Beach—the Orange County Holocaust Education Center will house Mermelstein's collection for access by students, teachers and the public. A documentary based on his life, "Live to Tell" is slated for release later this year.

Mermelstein is survived by his wife, Jane Mermelstein; his children, Bernie, Edie, Ken and David; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DIXIE
CLEM

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Dixie Carolyn Clem.

The youngest of four children, Dixie was born on October 30, 1930, in Booneville, Arkansas. In 1948, she would marry Emmitt Mason Clem, and they would remain firmly united in marriage for 53 years until his passing in 2001.

In 1955, Dixie relocated to Plano, Texas after her husband was appointed the Band Director for Plano High School. Upon settling in the area, Dixie began a lifelong involvement in her beloved Plano community including her membership at First United Methodist Church in Plano, the Plano Chapter Order of Easter Star, Mother Advisor of Plano Rainbow Chamber, Plano Good Sam Travel Club, Past President of Plano Business and Professional Women, and as the first woman to serve on the Plano Planning and Zoning Commission. Dixie also maintained employment with the Plano Star Courier.

Always invested in her community, Mrs. Clem maintained a deep commitment to the Girl Scouts and could oftentimes be seen supporting her husband from the stands at band marching contests and football games. Dixie and Emmitt maintained a passion for travel and were known to spend summers journeying

in their RV to Colorado. A beloved fixture in her family, Dixie was particularly known for creating treasured memories with her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Dixie is often considered a pioneer in helping to establish the Collin County Republican Party. For 55 years she focused her efforts on mentoring others to work towards bettering their communities and to become politically active at all levels of government. Greatly admired by those around her and as a testament to her efforts to train up the next generation of leaders, she received several notable recognitions including the Texas Federation of Republican Women's "Ten Outstanding Women Award" and "The Legacy Leadership Award."

While we mourn the loss of this respected matriarch of Collin County conservatism, we celebrate her many contributions to shaping the political landscape. Likewise, we rest in the knowledge her legacy will continue on as the award that bears her name—the highest honor bestowed upon a member of the Collin County GOP—will continue to be presented to those who embody next generation ideals of servant leadership.

While many in Collin County will miss her gumption and steadfast presence, together we recognize a life well lived. Now as we honor the life of Mrs. Dixie Clem, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating her rich legacy.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 1300 CAMPAIGN

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. MATSUI. Madam Speaker, it is with delight that I rise to honor the 1300 Campaign for their outstanding efforts to close the college achievement gap in the Sacramento region. The 1300 Campaign, a community-led and systems change initiative, is dedicated to permanently transforming the historical systematic barriers that have limited opportunities for young men of color.

In 2013, Improve Your Tomorrow was founded with the mission to increase the number of young men of color to attend and graduate from colleges with the vision of a world where men of color are overrepresented in higher education and underrepresented in the criminal justice system. The 1300 Campaign is an initiative of the Sierra Health Foundation, My Brother's Keeper Sacramento, and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative with backbone support provided by Improve Your Tomorrow, a homegrown organization within my district. Working together with local leaders and organizations, the 1300 Campaign strives to increase the number of young men of color from Sacramento who attend and graduate from the Los Rios Community College District, California State University, Sacramento and the University of California, Davis.

The 1300 Campaign partners with school districts to incorporate the A-G requirements as a default curriculum for all students. This will help ensure that all graduates, particularly young men of color, are eligible for post-secondary options. A-G eligibility for all students addresses a systematic barrier to college that contributes to the divergence in educational

outcomes, particularly for young men of color. Additionally, the 1300 Campaign works with school districts to incorporate ethnic studies as a graduation requirement, to establish a place-based mentorship model, hire additional counselors that represent the diversity of the student population, develop an organizational racial equity assessment tool, design and implement an ongoing countywide professional development training centered around culturally responsive pedagogy, to incorporate required implicit bias training for K–12 educators, and districts to implement a moratorium on school suspensions related to willful defiance for all schools in Sacramento County for no less than one year.

Madam Speaker, today we honor the 1300 Campaign for their outstanding efforts to close the college achievement gap and I thank their partners for their dedication and successful efforts.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF VICE ADMIRAL ROBERT D. SHARP

HON. JASON CROW

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. CROW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service and accomplishments of Vice Admiral Robert D. Sharp and congratulate him on his upcoming retirement.

A Veteran of the war in Afghanistan and the Gulf War, Vice Admiral Sharp bravely served our country during a highly decorated 34-year career with the United States Navy—receiving two bronze stars, the Legion of Merit award, two Defense Superior Service medals, and the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. Additionally, Vice Admiral Sharp's incredible leadership earned him the Vice Admiral Rufus L. Taylor award for excellence in instruction, the U.S. Army's Knowlton Award for Military Intelligence, the Rear Admiral Edwin T. Layton leadership award, and the Naval Intelligence Foundation award for excellence in operational intelligence support to the Fleet.

Beyond his many personal, unit, and campaign awards, Vice Admiral Sharp's service included operational deployments with USS *Ranger* (CV61). Carrier Air Wing 2 embarked on USS *Constellation* (CV 64) and Carrier Group 2 embarked on USS *Harry S. Truman* (CVN 75). Additionally, in April 2016, Vice Admiral Sharp was tasked with serving as Commander, Office of Naval Intelligence and Director, National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office.

In February 2019, Vice Admiral Sharp began serving as the seventh director of the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency (NGA). Under his leadership, the department worked diligently to collect, analyze, and distribute geospatial intelligence that decision makers, military service members, and first responders needed to stay safe and get the job done.

I think Vice Admiral Sharp would agree that—even beyond his own incredible service and personal achievements—he is most proud of the relationships he built and the future leaders he guided and shaped during his decades of service. In my role on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the House Armed Services Committee, I was

lucky enough to work closely with Vice Admiral Sharp, where it was clear he not only worked incredibly hard and with the utmost honor but left a lasting impression on every person he met.

Vice Admiral Sharp's many years serving our country in combat zones, keeping American servicemembers safe, and responding to national security threats before they strike epitomizes what it means to go above and beyond the call of duty. I congratulate Vice Admiral Sharp on his retirement and thank him for his service to our country.

STEVEN LECLAIRE

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, on behalf of a grateful nation and the citizens of the Texas Twenty-Fourth Congressional District, the 2021 Congressional Veteran Commendation is hereby presented to Stephen LeClaire, Airman 1st Class, United States Air Force of Bedford, Texas for his honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States of America and for his continued dedication to his community.

Mr. LeClaire enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1961, having served in an engineering unit until being honorably discharged in 1967. His decorations include the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal.

After leaving the Air Force, Mr. LeClaire has brought the same love he had for his country and poured it into making his community a better place. He has served on several boards, commissions, and committees. Among these are as a member of the commission for Boy Scouts of America Troop 499, a volunteer for Boy Scouts of America Troop 387 for 7 years, a soccer coach for the YMCA, an organizer for the Ronald McDonald House charity, and a member of the HEB Community Emergency Response Team.

Mr. LeClaire's career is marked with heroism and is consistent with the finest traditions of the United States Air Force and reflects great credit upon himself, the State of Texas, and the United States of America.

HONORING ROBBIE HUNTER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 7, 2022

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the contributions of Robbie Hunter upon his retirement as President of the California Building and Construction Trades Council.

Robbie grew up in Sailertown, Belfast, the son, nephew, grandson and great-grandson of the mariners, steeplejacks and dock workers that built Belfast's historic shipyards and ships, including the *Titanic*. Although Robbie has lived in America for decades, he has never lost either his Belfast brogue or his love for the families and Irish culture that made him who he is today and empowered him to lift up workers throughout California and across the country.

Robbie initially came to the United States in the late 70s as an ironworker, where he contributed to the construction of the American Skyline, from New York City to Las Vegas and Los Angeles. Continuing the family legacy of championing the rights of unions, Robbie became the president of the largest Ironworker local in the United States and Canada, Local 433. Robbie went on to become a renowned labor leader in California and United States, taking over the leadership of the Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council. As executive secretary, Robbie used his previous experience in the public sector to negotiate agreements and contracts with public and private companies, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, the Los Angeles Community College District, Los Angeles Airport, and Port of Los Angeles.

Shortly after, Robbie was elected as the President of the California State Building and Construction Trades Council (SBCTC), which oversees over 180 local unions representing over 68,000 apprentices and 450,000 skilled construction workers. As President, Robbie worked diligently to pass landmark legislation that promoted better working conditions, more comprehensive educational programs, and reasonable wages and benefits.

I have had the personal pleasure of getting to know and working with Robbie over the years and extend my utmost appreciation for his work on behalf of the half a million hard-working construction workers he represented as President of SBCTC of California. After dedicating his life to ensuring the safety and security of apprentices and skilled workers through union work, Robbie is opening the door for the continual betterment of union members across California and the United States.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating this accomplished, well-respected man, Robbie Hunter, in honor of his retirement.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

FEBRUARY 9

Time to be announced
Committee on the Budget
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget.

S-120
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Glenna Lauren Wright-Gallo, of Nevada, to be Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, Christopher John Williamson, of West Virginia, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, Mary Lucille Jordan, of Maryland, and Timothy Baker, of Virginia, both to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, and other pending calendar business.

TBA
10 a.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
To hold hearings to examine digital assets, focusing on risks, regulation, and innovation.

SD-106
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Gigi B. Sohn, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission.

SR-253
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks
To hold hearings to examine the implementation of the Great American Outdoors Act.

SD-366
Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine S. 2373, to reestablish United States global leadership in nuclear energy, revitalize domestic nuclear energy supply chain infrastructure, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, and S. 1290, to assist communities affected by stranded nuclear waste.

SD-G50
Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Robert Michael Gordon, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary, January Contreras, of Arizona, to be Assistant Secretary for Family Support, and Rebecca E. Jones Gaston, of Oregon, to be Commissioner on Children, Youth, and Families, all of the Department of Health and Human Services, and other pending nominations.

SD-215
Committee on Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on Iran, focusing on an update on Vienna discussions.

SVC-217
Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine "targeted killing" and the rule of law, focusing on the legal and human costs of 20 years of U.S. drone strikes.

SH-216

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection

To hold hearings to examine the role that community development financial institutions and minority depository institutions serve in supporting communities.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Space and Science

To hold hearings to examine NASA accountability and oversight.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on East Asia, the Pacific, and International Cybersecurity Policy

To hold hearings to examine Afghanistan, focusing on the humanitarian crisis and U.S. response.

SD-106/VTC

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine building a better labor market, focusing on empowering older workers for a stronger economy.

VTC

3 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Shalanda D. Young, of Louisiana, to be Director, and Nani A. Coloretti, of California, to be Deputy Director, both of the Office of Management and Budget, and Dimitri Kusnezov, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Science and Technology, Department of Homeland Security.

SD-342

FEBRUARY 10

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 3538, to establish a National Commission on Online Child Sexual Exploitation Prevention, S. 3103, to amend title 18, United States Code, to eliminate the statute of limitations for the filing of a civil claim for any person who, while a minor, was a victim of a violation of section 1589, 1590, 1591, 2241(c), 2242, 2243, 2251, 2251A, 2252, 2252A, 2260, 2421, 2422, or 2423 of such title, and the nominations of Andre B. Mathis, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Jessica G. L. Clarke, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, Hector Gonzalez, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, Fred W. Slaughter, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Andrew Fois, of the District of Columbia, to be Chairman of the Administrative Conference of the United States, and Marisa T. Darden, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio, Delia L. Smith, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands, Eddie M. Frizell, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota, and LaDon A. Reynolds, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois, all of the Department of Justice.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.	industrial, commercial, and residential sectors.	able Fuel Standard program, focusing on challenges and opportunities.
Special Committee on Aging		
To hold hearings to examine improving care experiences for people with both Medicare and Medicaid.	SD-366	SD-106
	Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions	
SD-562	Subcommittee on Employment and Workplace Safety	MARCH 2
10 a.m.	To hold hearings to examine the health care workforce shortage, focusing on recruiting, revitalizing and diversifying.	10 a.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs		Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine how institutional landlords are changing the housing market.	SD-430	To hold an oversight hearing to examine implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act by the Department of Transportation.
		SD-106
SD-538	FEBRUARY 16	
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources	10 a.m.	
To hold hearings to examine the opportunities and challenges in using clean hydrogen in the transportation, utility,	Committee on Environment and Public Works	
	To hold hearings to examine the Environmental Protection Agency's Renew-	